

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE PARISH COUNCIL OF OGBOURNE ST GEORGE
HELD ON THURSDAY 13 JANUARY 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 7.30PM

Those Present: Mr M Grove (Chairman)
Mrs C Manos

Mrs C Mudge
Mr K Macdonald
Mr P Rouse
Mr K Wallace
Mr P Willis
Mr C Freeman (Clerk)

Mrs J Milton (Wiltshire)
PC Sarah Watts

5 residents were present

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Police Report: The Community Beat Officer, PC Sarah Watts, reported that the most wanted person in the local area had been arrested and was now in custody. She expected a reduction on local thefts but reported that diesel had been stolen from Whitefields farm recently. As always she asked that property be secured at all times.

Matters Arising: **Speeding** - The Clerk reported that he had received new speeding signs for bins. Cllr Manos stated that she had heard of a Parish using strategically located skips to slow vehicles down. Sue Sutton volunteered for the village SpeedWatch in response to the piece in the Dragon.

Defibrillator - Cllr Wallace had produced a further and final report regarding defibrillators and their use. Whilst he was not making a recommendation the Councillors came to the conclusion that there was little enthusiasm in the village to spend funds on a defibrillator and a resolution to proceed with arrangements to obtain a defibrillator received no votes so it was proposed that the Council not proceed which was passed unanimously. Cllr Wallace was thanked for his efforts and comprehensive report.

Poor's Gorse Charity Trustee - Two names had been put forward, Lesley Wheeler and Ros Wallace. Prior to the Councillors discussing the merits of these candidates Cllrs Grove and Wallace declared interest and left the room. These candidates were discussed and a resolution to appoint Lesley Wheeler was carried unanimously. It was agreed to thank Mrs Wallace for volunteering.

Bottom Lane - The Clerk reported that he was progressing the claim against the driver that had crashed into Bottom Lane but as the driver had been charged with driving without insurance he had to wait until the matter was decided in Court on 14th February.

Telephone Kiosks - There had been no suggestions for the future use of the telephone boxes in response to the feature in the Dragon. Cllr Macdonald

stated that other villages had created an A-Z directory of facilities, services and people but this was condemned as a burglars' guide to the village. The Clerk reminded the meeting that kiosks elsewhere were being used as a book exchange. Cllr Wallace was thanked for cleaning the kiosk by the telephone exchange.

Bytham Road Warehouses – It was reported that the alleged dangerous dog at this site had gone as the property now seemed deserted.

Finance:

Precept - The Clerk had outlined the current position on the Parish Council's expenditure which showed anticipated reserves of £3800 at the end of the financial year. It was suggested that costs would rise during the forthcoming year. A resolution to keep the Precept at the same level as last year, £4750, was passed by six votes to one.

Payments - A current statement of the financial position of the Parish Council was distributed by the Clerk.
The following payments were approved:

SEC Maintenance	£79.52
Southern Electric power	£178.55
Printing of Dragon	£12.00
Clerk's Salary	£258.47
Parish Plan expenses	£25.58
Salisbury Diocese Village Hall rent	£52.00

Contracts - The Clerk had been asked to obtain comparative quotations for supply of the amenity lighting power from alternative suppliers. He was offered a deal from Scottish power that would result in a saving of approximately £240 but needed a commitment immediately. He had asked Councillors to make a commitment to endorse his actions and the resolution to commit to Scottish power was moved by 5 votes to 2. Cllr Rouse asked for it to be minuted that he felt due process had not been seen to be followed. He noted the November agenda had not included reference to changing electrical suppliers and that the inclusion of the item under the generic heading of 'contracts' on the January agenda was at best opaque. Cllr Rouse was concerned that the Council had not taken due regard to the environmental consequences of its decision to contract with the new supplier. He asked that environmental policy be included as a future agenda item. The Clerk pointed out that at the November meeting he was asked to obtain comparative quotations for supply of the amenity lighting power from alternative suppliers. When he found that if he made a commitment to Scottish in the next few days it would save the Parish Council approximately £250 per annum the Chairman agreed that a pragmatic approach would be to ask Councillors to commit in writing to voting at the current meeting in favour. Five Councillors did so which enabled the Clerk to achieve the savings. The Clerk also pointed out that Cllr Rouse had not arrived at the previous meeting when the issue was discussed and that contracts was the correct Agenda heading for the issue as it was a contract that was being arranged.

The Clerk would be receiving quotations for the Parish's grounds maintenance from Bawden, J&J Tree & Garden maintenance and Wiltshire Grounds maintenance service. A sub-committee of Cllrs Willis, Grove, Wallace and Macdonald agreed to meet to decide on the most suitable contractor and report to the next meeting.

Planning:

The following applications had been distributed to the Councillors for consideration:

Buckerfields Nursery – There were serious concerns that the Parish Council, having been in favour of the original nursery business being set up, now felt that this change of use of a barn that was in the original plan just ten years ago, would move the business away from its original purpose. To transfer from a horticultural usage to a tourist use so soon appeared to be somewhat disingenuous. The site is outside the village envelope and it was considered that approval of this application could be a first step towards residential development. A motion that the PC was not in favour was agreed to by 4 Councillors.

Conservatory at The Manor House – No Objection but it was observed that, contrary to the plans, it was considered that the conservatory would be visible from the road.

Allotments:

Three electors had registered interest in the Parish Council providing allotments, Cllr Rouse, Mrs Ros Rouse and Mrs Wendy Reardon-Smith. The threshold for the Parish Council to take action to select a site for allotments would be clear interest from 6 electors. It was suggested that the Councillors and electors who were in favour of allotments should visit other parishes that have recently provided them to understand the process of how to set up an allotment society. Concern was raised that the initiative could ‘run out of steam’.

Parish Plan:

On behalf of Mr Kevin Howard, Chairman of the Parish Plan committee, Cllr Wallace reported that, as Mr Howard had recently taken on a new job and would be less available, Mrs Wendy Reardon-Smith would in future deputise for him as necessary. There had been ‘quite a number’ of responses at the Parish Plan meeting regarding litter bins in the village and it was asked whether the Parish Council could revisit the litter bins issue. It was agreed to include it on an Agenda in future. The Parish Plan team had communicated with Paul Scott regarding the Parish website as they wished to put Parish Plan information on it but Mr Scott said he no longer had the time to keep it up to date. Cllr Macdonald said that he would be willing to be part of a new Website committee that could share the load as an editorial team. It was agreed to seek other candidates to assist. Cllr Wallace stated that the next Parish Plan meeting would be on Saturday 15th January in the new school hall. He reassured the Councillors that the Parish Plan would not tread on ‘other groups’ feet’. He passed the Parish Plans Grant form to the Clerk for completion. Cllr Rouse expressed concern regarding the future collection of data for the Parish Plan survey and was asked to share his expertise with the team.

Procedures:

The Chairman wished to clarify procedures surrounding the issuing of agendas. He accepted that occasionally Councillors had been reminded of forthcoming meetings but it was a courtesy not a convention. The agenda was set by the Chairman and Clerk. If a Councillor wishes to have a specific matter on the agenda it was up to them to pass that information to the Chairman or Clerk in a timely fashion. The Parish Council’s normal meeting dates would continue to be on the second Thursday of uneven months. The Chairman asked Councillors to be mindful of the Clerk’s workload and asked that emails be used for information rather than discussion. It was suggested that the Clerk’s work load be a subject for discussion next time.

Wiltshire Police Authority: The Chairman asked Councillors to complete, either online or in hard copy, the WPA questionnaire distributed to them in November before the February 11th deadline. Further details could be found on the website

- Parish Forum:** It was agreed that the Chairman would attend the first meeting of the proposed Parish Forum in order to assess its relevance to the Parish Council. Cllr Willis expressed his enthusiasm to attend as well. The Chairman would present his assessment at the next meeting of the Parish Council.
- Council Elections:** Cllr Wallace pointed out that 2011 should have been the year for new Parish Council Elections but to coincide with the next unitary authority elections Councillors' terms of office had been extended to 2013. Cllr Milton (Wiltshire) said that she doubted that the Authority would pay for an election caused by the mass resignation of Councillors. The Clerk referred to minutes from November 2007 when it was unanimously decided that elections should be held in 2009. That date having passed the matter rested.
- Salt Boxes:** It was reported that the roadside salt boxes were empty. The Clerk would make enquiries regarding having them refilled.
- Pothole:** It was reported that a pothole had appeared outside Carlisle House. The Clerk would mention it to the Parish Steward.
- Emergency Planning:** A question was asked as to whether the Parish Council had an emergency plan. Cllr Mudge said she was the emergency planning contact but that specific plans were generated at Wiltshire Council rather than at Parish level.
- Village Hall Lease:** Mr Tim Frost reminded the meeting that the Village Hall lease expired soon. He advised that the Salisbury Diocese are prepared to arrange the new lease and as the nine organisations involved in the management committee set up by the old lease were no longer in existence it may well be the time for the Parish Council to establish a Village Hall sub-committee. The Clerk would liaise with Tim Frost and the Diocese to agree a new lease for the Council's approval.
- Fresh Air Fitness:** It was suggested that the Parish Council install outdoor fitness equipment in the area adjacent to the village hall.
- There being no further business the meeting closed at 22.10. The next meeting would be on March 17th 2011.